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Irene Smith
IRENE SMITH

Customer Number

24024

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	
Makos et al.)	Examiner: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: 10/709,813)	Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Filed: May 28, 2004)	Confirmation No: 3812
For: INTEGRAL LOCKING COUPLER)	Attorney Docket No.: 27475/05355

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO Form PTO/SB/08A with (4) References; and
3. Return Receipt Postcard.

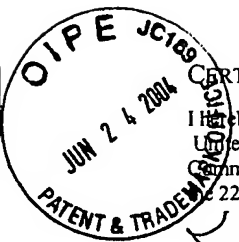
It is believed that no further fee is required relating to the filing of these documents. If this is not the case, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to Deposit Account No. 03-0172. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/22/04

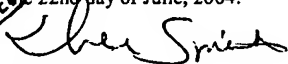
By: Douglas B. McKnight

Douglas B. McKnight (50,447)
216/622-8559



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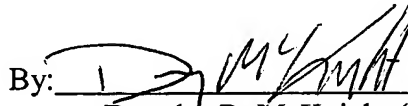
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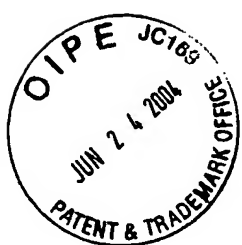
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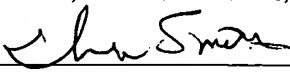
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	COUPLER)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I. Preliminary Statement

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability (37 C.F.R. §1.97(h)), or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

II. Identification of Time of Filing the Accompanying Information Disclosure Statement

☒ The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b). As such it is believed that there is no fee due.

☐ The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed *after* three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in

§1.491 in an international application or after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurred last but *before* the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

- ☐ The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before or simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee.

III. Non-English References

- ☐ Submitted herewith is an English translation of the following foreign language patents, publications or information or of those portions of those patents, publications or information considered to be material: _____.
- ☐ No English translations of the foreign language patents, publications or information or parts thereof are readily available, except for those listed above.
- ☐ The following foreign language documents submitted are believed to be the equivalent or substantial equivalent of the English language documents identified below, which are also submitted herewith.
- ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items. (Attached)

IV. CERTIFICATE

- ☐ I certify that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ I certify that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is submitted as a courtesy copy for the Examiner and includes the references from the previously submitted Form 1449s from the parent case of which this is a continuation application.


V. Fee

- ☐ Petition fee due (§1.17(p)): \$180.00
- ☐ Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00.
- ☐ Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$_____ to Deposit Account No. **03-0172**.
- ☒ Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **03-0172**. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

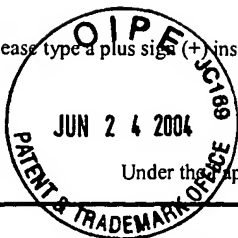
Date: _____

6/12/04



Douglas B. McKnight
Reg. No. 50,447
Telephone: 216/622-8200
Customer No.: 24024

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +



PTO/SB/08A (10-96)

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Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p> <p>Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Complete if Known</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/709,813</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>May 28, 2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Tim Makos et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>Not yet assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Not yet assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>2747505355</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	10/709,813	Filing Date	May 28, 2004	First Named Inventor	Tim Makos et al.	Group Art Unit	Not yet assigned	Examiner Name	Not yet assigned	Attorney Docket Number	2747505355
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		6,598,897	B1	Patti	07/29/2003	
		5,730,456	A	Bowers	03/24/1998	
		4,077,234		Crochet, Sr.	03/07/1978	
		3,981,517		Crochet, Sr.	09/21/1976	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
			DE 3703626	A1	Jurgens, Walter	08/18/1988		
			DE 3927423	A1	Daimler-Benz	02/21/1991		
		EP	O 455 251	A2	A1-Ko Kober AG	06/11/1991		
		FR	2 673 891	A1	Wiat Jean-Francois	09/18/1992		

OTHER PRIOR ART		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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